

In the Specification:

Referring to the paragraph numbering in the application as published:

Please delete paragraph 8 and insert the following:

[0008] an open upper inlet for receiving a charge of moisture containing particulate material;

Please delete paragraph 9 and insert the following:

[0009] an open lower outlet for discharging dried particulate material, whereby said particulate material travels under the influence of gravity from said inlet to said outlet in a substantially continuous manner;

Please delete paragraph 15 and insert the following:

[0015] (b) at least one conveyer for conveying said surface conditioned material to an inlet of a dryer as described above;

Please delete paragraph 20 and insert the following:

[0020] an open upper inlet for receiving a charge of brown coal containing pellets;

Please delete paragraph 21 and insert the following:

[0021] an open lower outlet for discharging dried pellets of brown coal, whereby said pellets travel under the influence of gravity from said inlet to said outlet in a substantially continuous manner;

Please delete paragraph 30 and insert the following:

[0030] FIGS. *6a* and *6b* are schematic drawings of a drying plant in accordance with the invention;

Please delete paragraph 42 and insert the following:

[0042] Preferably air is sucked into the container typically under the influence of an induced fan. The induced fan is typically positioned downstream of the egress openings. One or more air plenums may be provided on the exterior surface of the permeable walls and these preferably cover the egress openings. Air plenums allow the physical properties of the air, such as flow rate, temperature, pressure, etc. to be controlled. Preferably, one or more air plenums also cover the ingress openings. The, or each, air plenum covering the ingress gaseous

openings typically includes at least one air inlet and the, or each, air plenum covering the egress openings typically includes at least one outlet. Preferably the at least one outlet includes one or more air extract ducts. Preferably air is drawn into the inlets under action of an air circulator, such as an induced draft fan. Advantageously, the air stream is at ambient or higher temperature. Preferably the air temperature is between about 15.degree. C. and about 80.degree. C., more preferably between about 25.degree. C. and about 60.degree. C. Preferably the, or each, inlet air plenum is provided on the exterior of one permeable wall and the, or each, outlet air plenum is provided on the exterior of an opposing permeable wall, such that the air stream passes through the full thickness of the particulate charge, thereby maximising surface area contact of the charge with the air stream. For most embodiments, adequate air flow through the particulate charge is achieved by suction, such as by using an induced fan as described above. However, under some circumstances, it can be advantageous to force air into the ingress openings under pressure. Such circumstances include the situation where external air is leaking into the particulate charge, for example at the open, upper inlet. External leakage from the atmosphere can be avoided when the pressure of air being fed into the ingress openings is substantially equal to or higher than atmospheric.

Please delete paragraph 56 and insert the following:

[0056] The drying plant typically also includes a compactor for the production of brown coal containing compacted bodies. The compactor may comprise any suitable means by which the brown coal is formed into compacted bodies. Typically the compactor will include a mixing/attritioning device and a pelletiser, preferably an extruder. The brown coal, preferably in the form of fines (for example having average particle diameter of about 0.5mm to about 10 mm, preferably about 2 mm to about 6 mm) is mixed, if necessary, with water, binders and any other components (for example, metal containing material such as iron oxide waste). In the course of this mixing the coal is exposed to shear forces that not only result in attritioning of the coal particles, but also result in generation of a plastic mass of material that is then fed to the extruder, where it is formed into pellets of the desired size.

Please delete paragraph 57 and insert the following:

[0057] The mixing/attritioning is generally conducted for between about 30 sec and about 2 hours, preferably for between about 1 min and about 30 min, most preferably between about 2 min and about 5 min, which should be sufficient to allow visible sign of "balling" of the coal to occur. The shear forces applied to the coal should be sufficient to cause water to be released ~~from~~from the cellular structure of the coal. For example a sigma-type kneading machine operating at low speed (eg. 20-40 r.p.m.) and having a rotor-wall clearance of 0.3 mm can usefully be adopted. The preferred mixing/attritioning action is a relatively slow kneading action, rather than a fast beating action, that will result in the shearing of one newly exposed face of the coal material against another.